

Application No. 09/152,992
Amendment dated May 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 24, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A nipple cover for covering a portion of a human breast without using a brassiere, said nipple cover comprising an outer shell of a flexible material and being formed substantially in the shape of a hollow curved surface and having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein said outer surface is substantially smooth, and wherein said inner surface of the shell is a substantially continuous curve for smoothly receiving a human breast and for smoothly receiving a nipple of the human breast, and is adapted for receiving an adhesive for connecting said nipple cover to a human body, and wherein the shell of the nipple cover has a first thickness proximate a center thereof for concealing a nipple shape, which first thickness is greater than a second thickness at and around a periphery thereof for blending with a breast surface, the shell of the nipple cover gradually tapering in thickness from the first thickness to the second thickness for smoothly blending with a breast surface, and wherein a curvature of the outer surface of the shell is a substantially smooth continuous one directional curvature from the center to the periphery thereof and the shell having a shape of substantially a hollow hemisphere.

2. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1 wherein ~~said nipple cover is manufactured from a flexible plastic material~~ the shell of the nipple cover consists essentially of the flexible material.

3. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1 wherein the shell of said nipple cover has the shape of a hollow hemisphere is of a size configured to be substantially larger than a woman's nipple and areola.

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4. (Currently amended) The device of claim 3 wherein said nipple cover is of a size configured for covering at least about one half of a woman's breast and less than the whole breast.

5. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, further comprising an absorbent pad disposed on said inner surface of said ~~cover~~ shell.

6. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of holes disposed through said ~~cover~~ shell.

7. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the second thickness at the periphery is substantially less than one half of the first thickness proximate the center.

8. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said device is reusable and has adhesive which may be removed after each use of said cover.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously presented) A method of covering a nipple on a human breast, the nipple cover having a center and comprising a flexible material for conforming to a human breast,

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the method comprising the steps of:

placing the nipple cover directly on a human breast so as to cover at least about one half and less than all of the breast, with the center of the cover proximate the nipple;

the nipple cover having a first thickness proximate the center and a second thickness proximate a periphery thereof, and the thickness of the nipple cover gradually tapering from the first thickness to the second thickness, wherein the method further includes the step of bonding the nipple cover on the breast such that the periphery of the cover blends smoothly with a curved portion of the breast while concealing a nipple shape.

12. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the device is unitarily formed between the inner and outer surfaces.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising a step of selecting a nipple cover from a plurality of colors of nipple covers and from a plurality of shapes and sizes for covering at least about one half of the breast and less than all of the breast.

14. (Previously presented) A set of nipple covers for covering a portion of a human breast, each said nipple cover comprising a flexible material, being formed substantially in the shape of a hollow curved surface and having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein said outer surface is substantially smooth, and wherein the nipple cover has a first thickness proximate a center thereof greater than a second thickness at and around a periphery thereof, the nipple cover gradually tapering in thickness from the first thickness to the second thickness for smoothly blending with a breast surface, and the outer surface of the nipple cover having a substantially smooth continuous curvature from the center to the periphery thereof.

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15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein in the step of placing, the cover is affixed to the human breast by adhesive.

16. (Previously presented) The device of claim 14, further comprising a set of devices the same as each other except differing in at least one of size and color.

17. (Previously presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the set of devices differs in color for matching a skin tone of breast.

18. (New) The device of claim 16, wherein the set of devices differs in shape.

19. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the material comprises a rubber-like material.

20. (Previously presented) The device of claim 14, wherein the first thickness is for covering up the nipple and the second thickness is for blending with the skin.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising a step of selecting the nipple cover with a color matching a skin color of the breast upon which the cover is placed.

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22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising a step of wearing clothing in contact with an outer surface of the nipple cover without a brassiere.